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Legislative Survey – I'd Like To Hear From You!



Kelli Linville

State Representative • 42nd Legislative District

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I hope this brief pamphlet finds you and your family safe and healthy - and enjoying a good start to the new year.

Today, I'm asking for your specific assistance.

Our state is facing a profound crisis, both with the general budget and with the transportation budget. The terrorist assaults against our country - and other factors including the energy crisis, the drought, and the earthquake - have helped spawn economic recession. A consequence of the recession is that we have a \$1.2 billion canyon between citizen-services and revenue to pay for these services. But recession or no recession, I'm committed to balancing the budget without increasing general taxes and without eliminating essential programs.

What I'd like today is for you to think about the following questions. After you're done, please put this pamphlet in an envelope, and mail it back to me in Olympia as soon as you can.

Thanks so much for your time and interest!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli".

Kelli Linville
State Representative
42nd Legislative District

1.

Local and state governments are responsible for many public-health and safety programs. Citizen-approved initiatives have reduced state funding available to help local governments with fire, law-enforcement, and additional public services. Should we find other state-budget areas to cut before we make further reductions in assistance for cities and counties?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

2.

Washington farm and ranch products help feed the world - and help keep a lot of Washington businesses productive and a lot of Washingtonians on the job. While we should always keep that fact in mind, we must also be mindful of our responsibility to protect our environmental standards. Should we streamline the rules and regulations, as long as we continue to maintain environmental-protection?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

3.

Most people agree that young men and women and other citizens should have a decent chance to pursue a college education. Workers, too, should have a reasonable opportunity to enroll in a retraining program - especially in tough economic times when businesses are downsizing or worse. Right now, the tuition policy - and, therefore, the enrollment policy - for our state's colleges and universities is essentially a statewide decision. Should colleges and universities be able to set their own tuition policies?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

4.

Our state enforces some of the nation's most uncompromising anti-crime laws, including drug offenses. Our jails and prisons have the inmate population to confirm the seriousness with which we take this criminal activity and disease. But what about *nonviolent* drug-offenders? The drug court in Whatcom County has met success providing treatment as a less expensive alternative - and in many cases, a more successful alternative - to incarceration. Should we establish a similar program statewide?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

5.

Recent citizen-approved initiatives direct that more money must be invested in (1) reducing class sizes, and (2) providing better salaries for educators. Citizens can be asked to consider providing additional local-education money through school levies and bonds. The law right now is that these local options must receive support from a "super-majority" - at least 60 percent "Yes" - in order to pass. But it takes only a minimum of 50 percent of the voters to agree to build a new prison.

• Should we revise the school-levy system so a levy proposal passes if it receives at least 50 percent of the vote?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

6.

Whatcom County people are as familiar with traffic problems as anyone else in Washington. And our community's businesses are also quite aware of what highway congestion can do to a company's profit margin. Governor Locke proposes a nine-cent increase over three years in the gas tax to raise money to improve our infrastructure. Other people suggest a four-cent hike, with specific regions then allowed to consider additional increases for additional transportation projects. Regardless of how we feel about this question, everyone wonders if the Legislature should make the call - or if the plan should be put to a vote of the people.

• Should the gas tax be raised by nine cents as a way to fund road, street, highway, bridge, transit, ferry, and other transportation projects statewide?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

• Should the gas tax be raised by four cents - and specific local voters then decide whether to pay for more projects in their own community?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

• Should the question of a gas-tax increase be sent to the voters?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

7.

Please consider the following areas of your state's general budget. I'd like you to rank these budget sections in terms of their importance for you and the other people of Washington.

- ___ Agriculture
- ___ Children and family services, which includes:
 - Long-term care
 - Health care for low-income citizens
 - Assistance for developmentally disabled citizens
- ___ Corrections
- ___ Economic-development
- ___ Education, which includes:
 - K-12
 - Colleges and universities
 - Worker-retraining
- ___ Environment
- ___ Law enforcement
- ___ Natural resources
- ___ State library
- ___ Veterans services